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1911, no. 1



HEADQUARTERS
National Department
Daughters of Veterans
United States of America



Office of Patriotic Instructor

The "Astoria" *Washington, D. C., January 2, 1911*

Circular Letter No. 1.

*To all Patriotic Instructors and Members of the
National Alliance, Daughters of Veterans:*

GREETING:—

Deeply appreciating the honor conferred upon me at the last annual convention of our Order, by election as National Patriotic Instructor, I hereby assume the duties of the office, feeling assured of the hearty co-operation of each member.

Our work, to teach patriotism, takes us beyond the confines of the Tent room. We, having the blood of our brave and noble fathers, the preservers of our Union, are patriotic by inheritance and do not require teaching, but should gladly take up the work of instructing and encouraging others.

One way to do this is by the annual celebration, in Tent room and before the public, of the various patriotic days in our calendar:

McKinley's Birthday, January 29th.

Lincoln's Birthday, February 12th.

Washington's Birthday, February 22d.

Grant's Birthday, April 27th.

Peace and Arbitration Day, May 18th.

Memorial Sunday, the Sunday preceding Memorial Day.

Memorial Day, May 30th.

Flag Day, June 14th.

Independence Day, July 4th.

Citizen's Day, the first Sunday in October.

Let the Patriotic Instructor of each Tent prepare a program suitable for each event and report the celebration to the Department Patriotic Instructor.

Through the schools we reach the children of the land, and I hope each Patriotic Instructor will make it her special duty to see that the celebration of Flag Day, at least, is observed in the public schools. Assist the comrades of our fathers as they tell to the little ones the story of the flag they saved. Be ready to tell the story yourself, and if possible have a public celebration in some place in the evening of Flag Day. Distribute flags and consider money so spent, well spent. Particularly do we wish to reach the children of alien parents: they require the teaching; they need the repetition of the story of the birth and the struggle to save the emblem of their liberty. Present flags, whenever possible, to schools, to organizations or to individuals.

I wish to call attention to the effort, by the Francis Scott Key Association, to purchase the Key Mansion in Georgetown, District of Columbia. In this house, overlooking the beautiful Potomac River, which once divided, but now unites the South with the North, lived Francis Scott Key, the author of our national hymn, "The Star Spangled Banner," and the above named Association is striving to procure the house to make of it a museum, in which shall be displayed the flag and its history. For ten cents, certificates are issued, showing membership in the Association.

My attention is called to a new song, "Unfurl Old Glory to the Top-Mast Breeze," written by Comrade Frank A. Johnson, of Sedgewick Post, No. 8, G. A. R. of Spokane, Washington, and endorsed by the Commander-in-Chief of the G. A. R. and the National Patriotic Instructor of the G. A. R. The song can be sung with good effect at all public celebrations.

As we start on this New Year, may our motto, "The Flag Our Fathers Saved," be ever before us. Honor to the flag and to the men who saved it, will do more to increase interest in our Order, than work along any other line; and increased interest means increased membership.

To the Patriotic Instructors of Department or Tent falls the work of planning celebrations, etc., and I ask for them the hearty co-operation and support of the Presidents and members of each Tent.

I hope to receive reports from every Tent in the Country, and hereby request that each newly elected Patriotic Instructor of Department or Tent send me her name and address. I shall endeavor to get into touch with each Tent.

My message is: "Behold the Colors, the Stars and Stripes, the Flag of our Country. It represents an independent people, growing with wonderful progress, ruling the land by the will of the people alone. Its folds have never been stained, save by the blood of its defenders: it is never unfurled, save to battle for liberty and justice. It appeals to heart and brain alike and evokes the highest enthusiasm, calling to mind high purpose, noble sacrifice and glorious victory. May it ever be the object of our pride, the inspiration of our patriotism, an incentive to duty and devotion to our Republic."

Very sincerely yours, in F. C. and L.

ANNA M. ROBERTS,
National Patriotic Instructor.

Approved, January 7, 1911.

Anna M. Kelly
National President

Attest:

Era M. Kelly
National Secretary



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